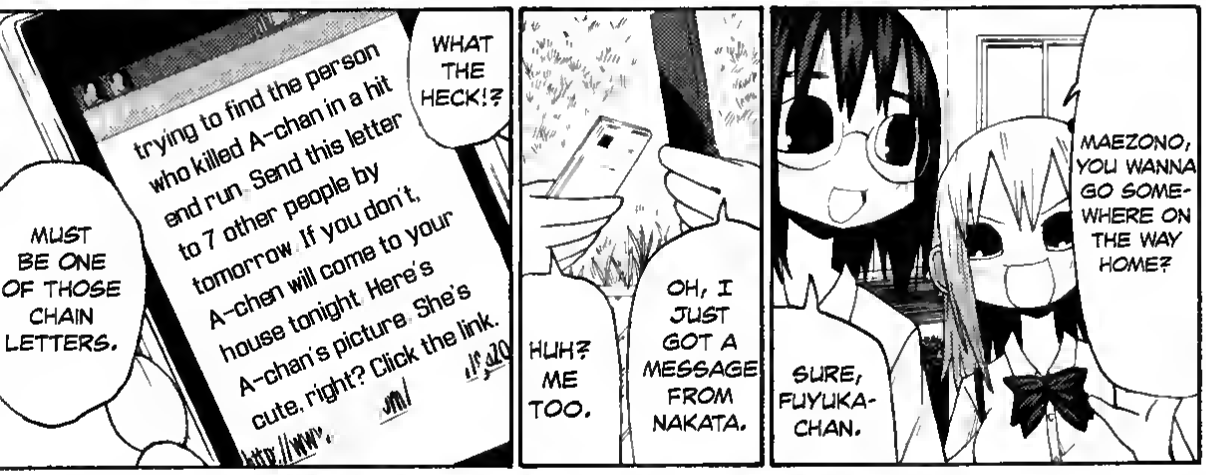
CHAPTER 17:
I SAW
SOMETHING
SCARY

SIGN: EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL


MAEZONO, YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY HOME?
SURE, FUYUKA-CHAN.
OH, I JUST GOT A MESSAGE FROM NAKATA.
HUH? ME TOO.
WHAT THE HECK!?
trying to find the person who killed A-chan in a hit and run. Send this letter to 7 other people by tomorrow. If you don't, A-chan will come to your house tonight. Here's A-chan's picture. She's cute, right? Click the link.
http://ww/
MUST BE ONE OF THOSE CHAIN LETTERS.

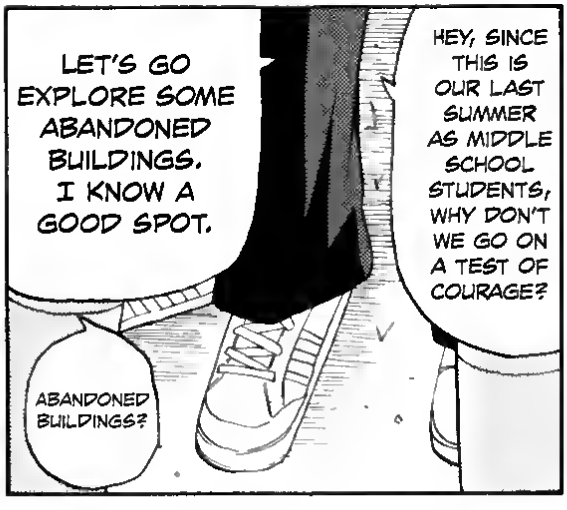
SFX: TAP TAP
I HATE SCARY STUFF! SCARY THINGS ARE THE WORSE!
YOU'RE SPAM CLICKING ON THE LINK THOUGH!!
IT'S SURELY GOING TO BE SOME SCARY PICTURE. I CAN'T DEAL WITH THOSE.
I TOTALLY CAN'T DEAL WITH THOSE EITHER! I'M SO SCARED!

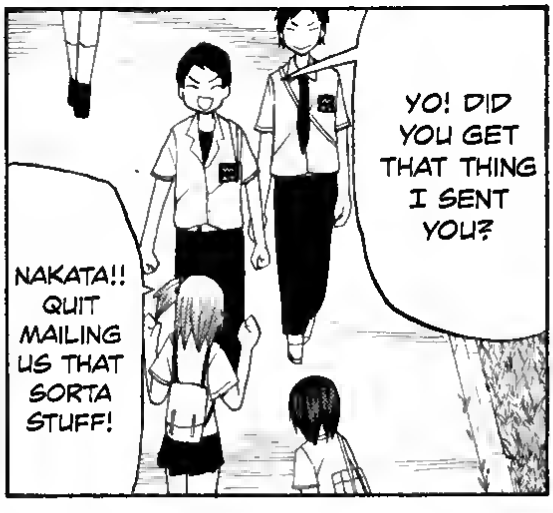
SFX: FLASH

SFX: GASP GASP

I ALSO REALLY WANT TO SEE SCARY THINGS.
EVEN THOUGH I GET SCARED SUPER EASILY.
WHAT THE HECK?

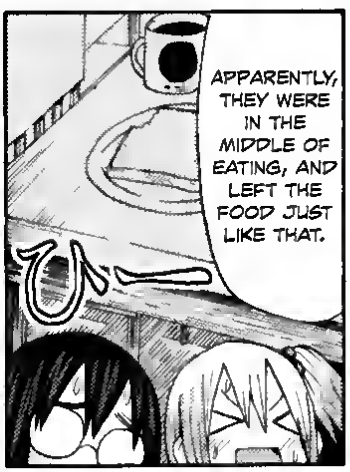
AHH HHH!! IT'S SO SCARY!! SAVE ME!!
YOU LOOKED AT IT ON YOUR OWN THOUGH.


LET'S GO EXPLORE SOME ABANDONED BUILDINGS. I KNOW A GOOD SPOT.
HEY, SINCE THIS IS OUR LAST SUMMER AS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, WHY DON'T WE GO ON A TEST OF COURAGE?
ABANDONED BUILDINGS?

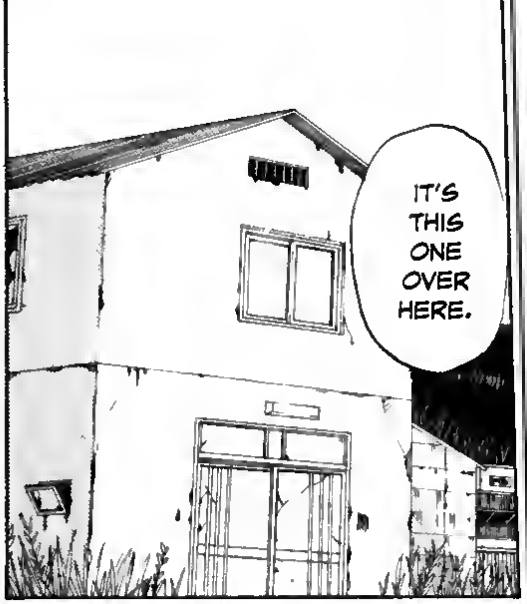

YO! DID YOU GET THAT THING I SENT YOU?
NAKATA!! QUIT MAILING US THAT SORTA STUFF!

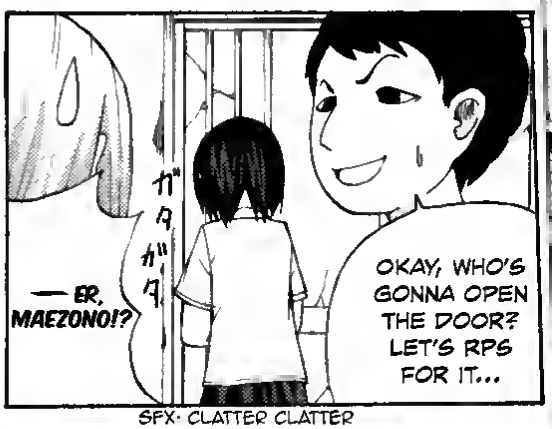
IF YOU GO DOWN THE HILL AND HEAD STRAIGHT FOR A WHILE, THERE ARE A FEW HOUSES AROUND THERE THAT NOBODY LIVES IN ANYMORE, RIGHT?
I HEARD THERE'S ONE OF THEM THAT'S SUPER FREAKY.
NOBODY CAN EVEN LAST 10 MINUTES IN THAT HOUSE BEFORE RUNNING AWAY.
RUMOR IS THAT LONG AGO THE FAMILY LIVING IN THAT HOUSE SUDDENLY UP AND VANISHED.

WOW, THAT'S SCARY. MAEZONO, WE'RE NOT GONNA GO, RIGHT?
WE HAVE TO GO!!
WHAT!?


APPARENTLY, THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF EATING, AND LEFT THE FOOD JUST LIKE THAT.

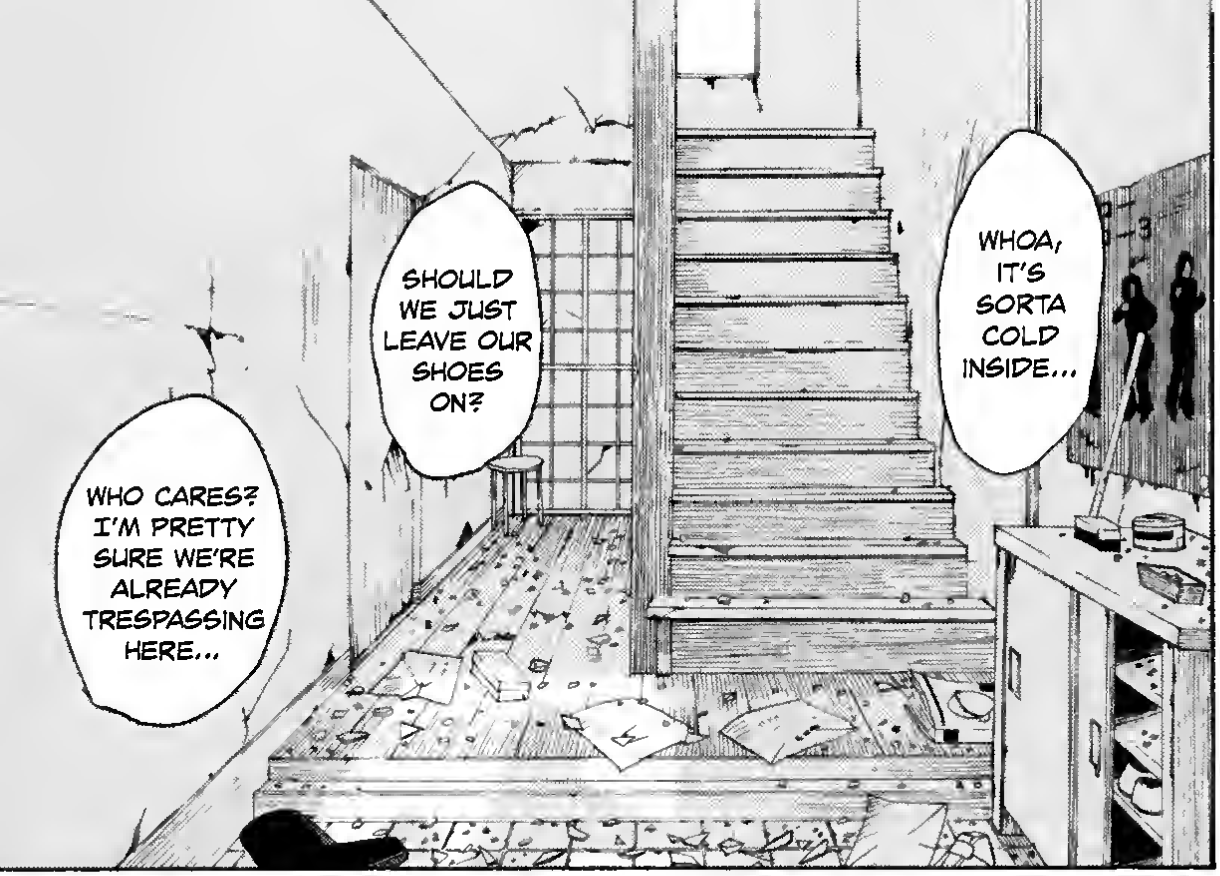
WELL, I MEAN, I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING SCARY OVER THERE.
IF I JUST LEAVE IT ALONE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT ACTUALLY IS, THEN I'M GONNA FEEL SO UNEASY.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
LIKE, BECAUSE YOU CAN, YOU MUST?





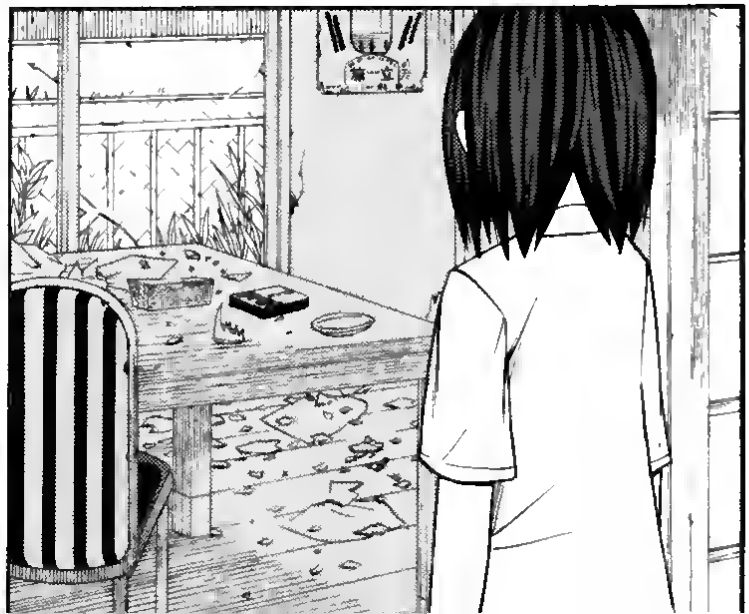
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER

SFX: SLIDE SLIDE

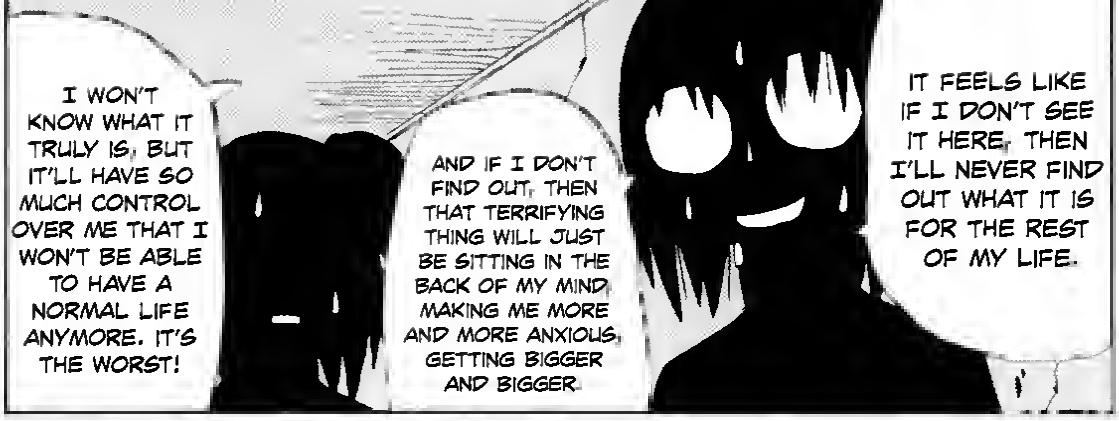


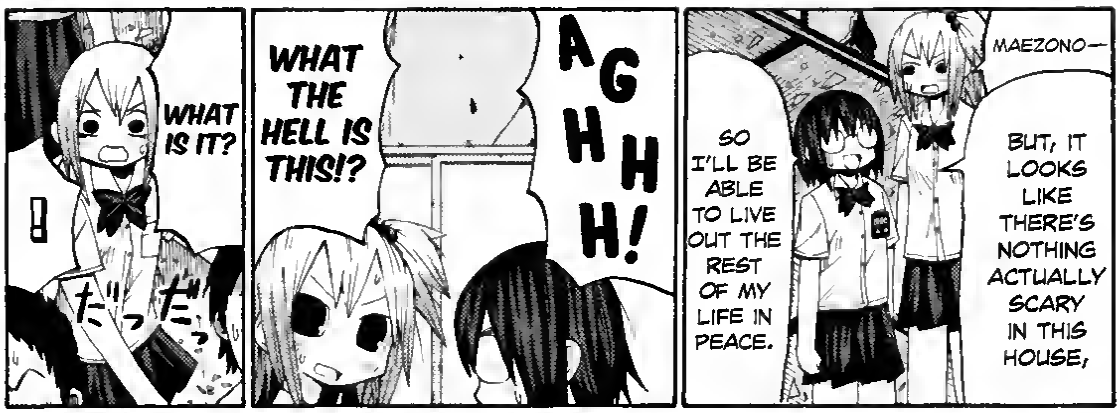
SFX: SLIDE

SFX: TAP TAP



IT'S ALL I'LL THINK ABOUT. IT WON'T STOP. IT EATS AT ME.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT.
MAEZONO!?
SFX: DASH
Y'KNOW, MAEZONO... THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TEST OF COURAGE. SO WHY DON'T WE TAKE IT A LITTLE SLOWER?
SFX: CLICK CLICK
I'M SORRY EVERYONE, BUT... IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO SCARED OF SCARY THINGS.
SFX: CREAK


IT FEELS LIKE IF I DON'T SEE IT HERE, THEN I'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHAT IT IS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
AND IF I DON'T FIND OUT, THEN THAT TERRIFYING THING WILL JUST BE SITTING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, MAKING ME MORE AND MORE ANXIOUS, GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER.
I WON'T KNOW WHAT IT TRULY IS, BUT IT'LL HAVE SO MUCH CONTROL OVER ME THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE ANYMORE. IT'S THE WORST!


MAEZONO—
BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING ACTUALLY SCARY IN THIS HOUSE,
SO I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE OUT THE REST OF MY LIFE IN PEACE.
AGHHH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
WHAT IS IT?
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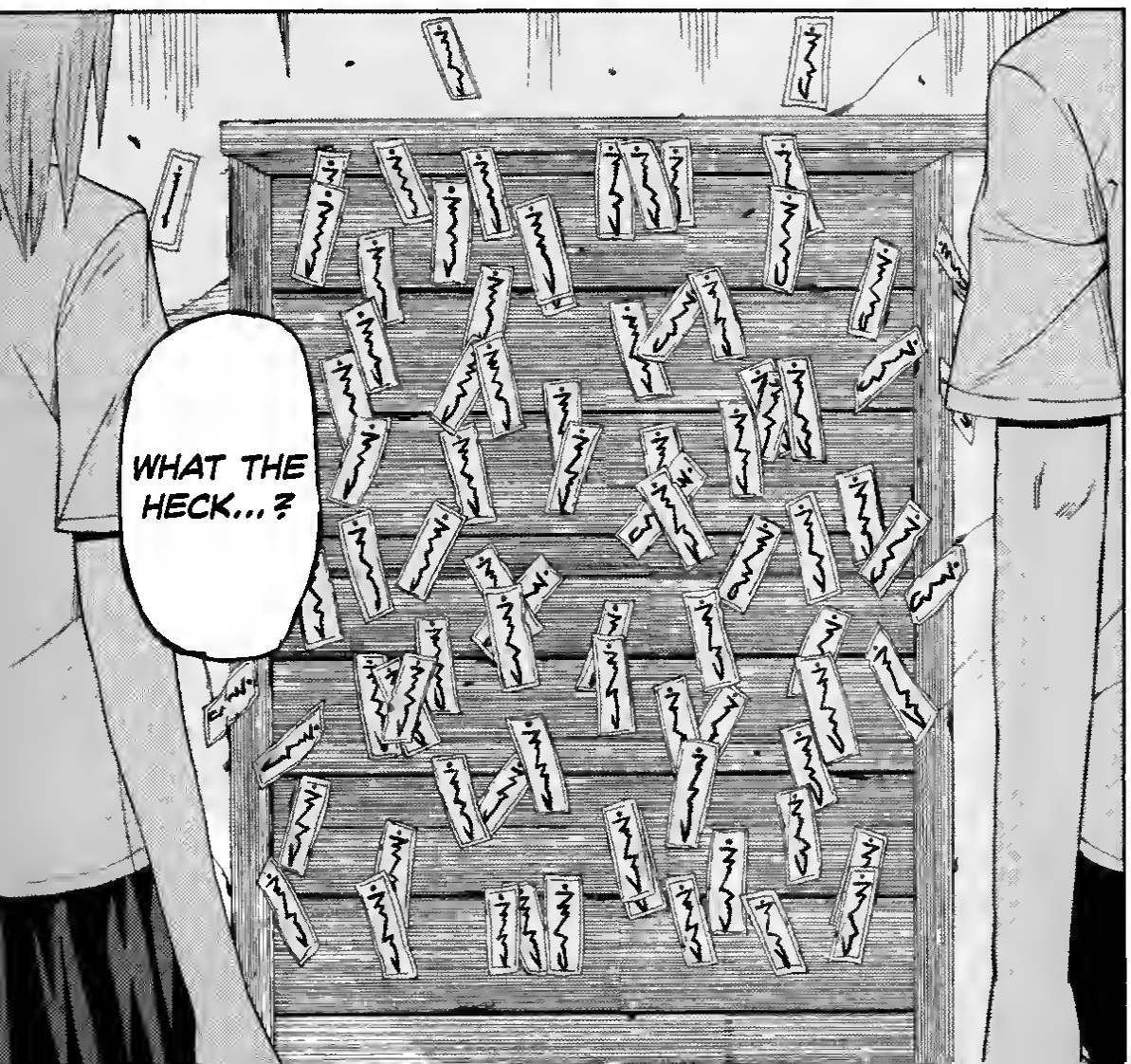
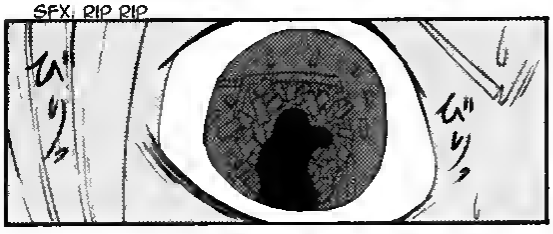
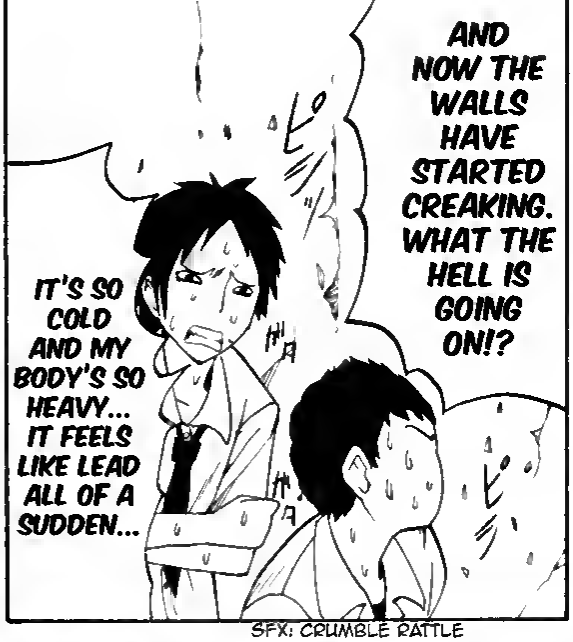

WHAT THE HECK...?

LET'S GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
OH SHIT, THIS IS WAY TOO FREAKY FOR ME!
MAEZONO!

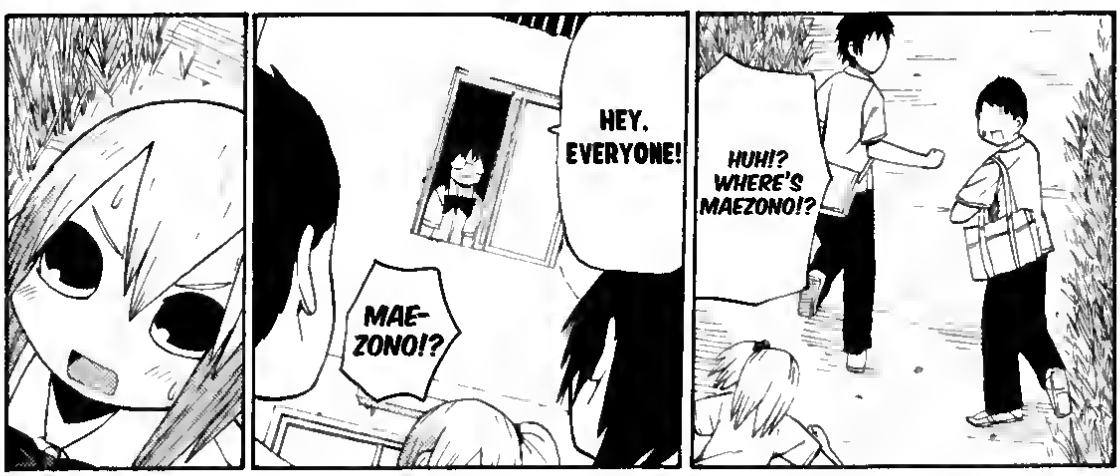

SFX: RIP RIP

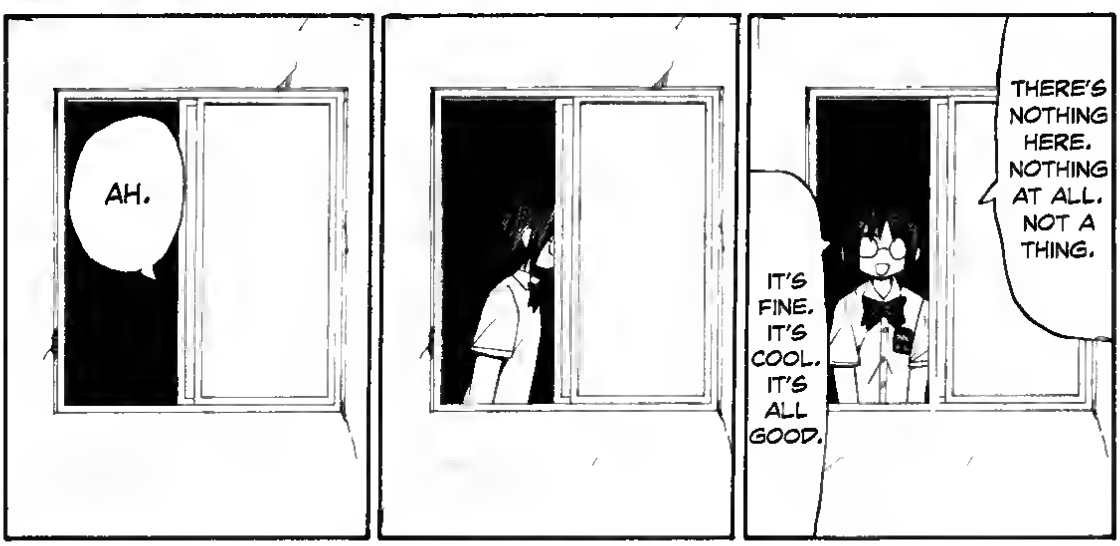

AND NOW THE WALLS HAVE STARTED CREAKING. WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
IT'S SO COLD AND MY BODY'S SO HEAVY... IT FEELS LIKE LEAD ALL OF A SUDDEN...
SFX: CRUMBLE RATTLE

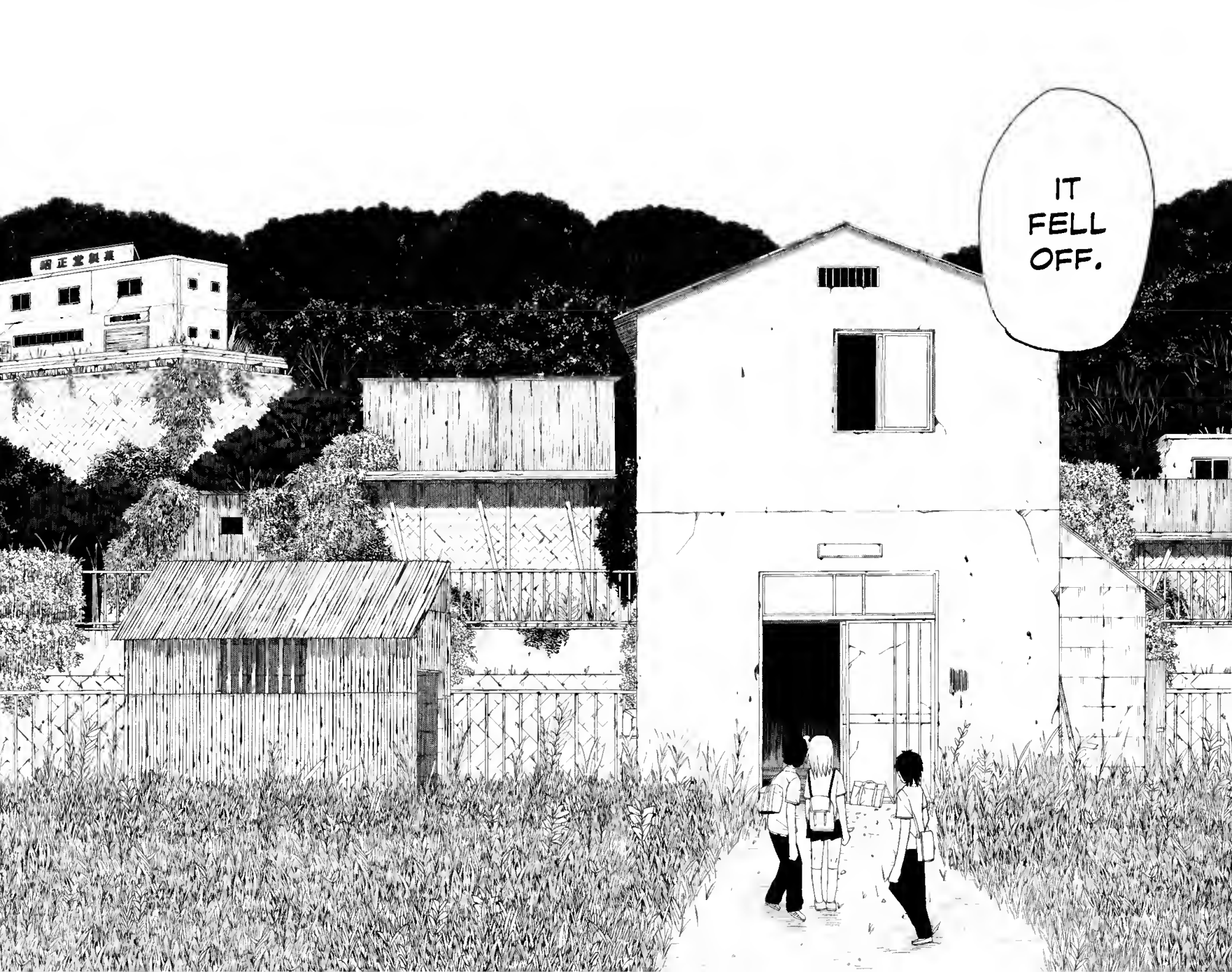
SFX: GASP GASP

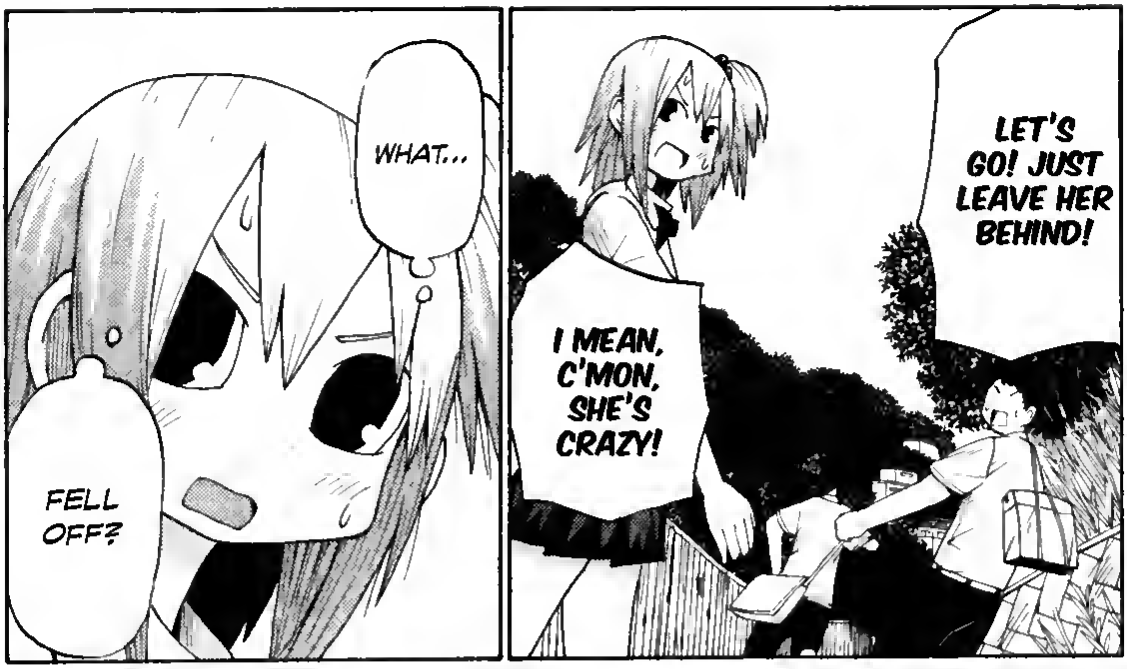
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY, FUYUKA-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? STOP THAT!!

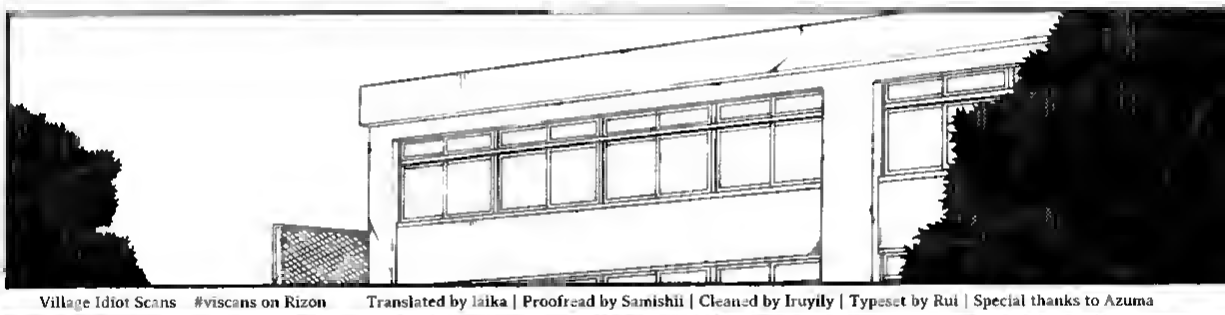
NOW THAT I KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS DOOR,
I'VE GOT TO SEE WHETHER SOMETHING SCARY IS BEHIND IT OR NOT.


HEY. EVERYONE!
MAE-ZONO!?
HUH!? WHERE'S MAEZONO!?


AH.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE. NOTHING AT ALL. NOT A THING.
IT'S FINE. IT'S COOL. IT'S ALL GOOD.


IT FELL OFF.





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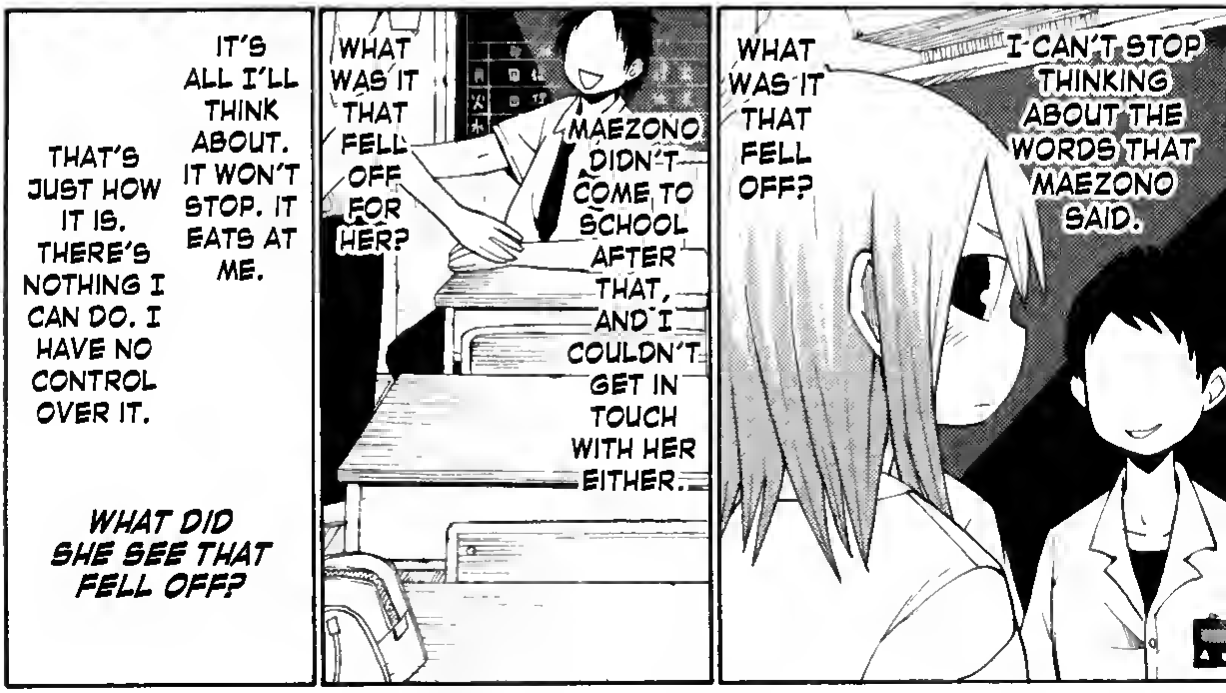
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER IT.
IT'S ALL I'LL THINK ABOUT. IT WON'T STOP. IT EATS AT ME.
WHAT DID SHE SEE THAT FELL OFF?
WHAT WAS IT THAT FELL OFF FOR HER?
MAEZONO DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL AFTER THAT, AND I COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HER EITHER.
WHAT WAS IT THAT FELL OFF?
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE WORDS THAT MAEZONO SAID.

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